

Kane County Farmer



**KANE COUNTY
FARM BUREAU®**
Farm. Family. Food.™

Enhance the quality of life for member families;
Promote agriculture, farms & food; and,
Advocate good stewardship of our land and resources.

VOL. 84 NO. 6 JUNE 2019

Lenkaitis Dairy Farm hosts family fun on June 29

Kick-off your summer fun by visiting a local dairy farm. The Lenkaitis family is opening their barn doors to the general public on Saturday, June 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors have the unique opportunity to meet a farm family using technology to produce fresh, wholesome milk. "We are excited to host our neighbors and the community for an afternoon of fun on the farm. Our family hopes it serves as an opportunity

for those attending to learn about the people and dairy cows behind the nutritious milk and dairy foods we all enjoy," says Andy Lenkaitis, part owner and operator of the dairy farm.

The farm, known as Lenkaitis Holsteins, was purchased by the family in 1983 and began with just five cows. Today, the farm is enjoyed by three generations of the Lenkaitis family and is comprised of 150 head, including 80 milk cows.

The newest barn on the farmstead was built in 2018 and houses two robotic milking units. "On a traditional dairy farm, all of the cows are milked twice or three times a day by people. With robotic milkers, the cows decide when they want to milk," explains Lenkaitis.

Attendees can take a 30-minute guided tour of the dairy barn to see the cows being milked by robotic milkers, learn how the farm maintains a clean, comfortable environment for the cows and examine the feed

used in their special diets to keep them healthy. "We also have the perfect spot for attendees to see the cows up-close and take a selfie with one," adds Lenkaitis.



Fun and fascinating

Lenkaitis Dairy Farm is looking forward to seeing you!
Pictured here are Lenkaitis family members and Kane County Young Farmers on a recent visit to the farm.

Besides the cows, visitors will also see tractors and other equipment used to grow and harvest crops. The Lenkaitis family grows corn, alfalfa, oats and small grains primarily used to feed the animals.

Attendees can enjoy their afternoon of fun at the farm

with a scoop of ice cream in-hand. A donation of \$2 will be collected for a serving of ice cream and your choice of toppings. All proceeds support the 10,000 Gallon Milk Challenge

future generations. "There are only three dairy farms left in Kane County, us included. We made an investment to renovate our farm to take the best care of our cows and people. By making a safe, comfortable environment for both, we look forward to providing top-quality milk for consumers for years to come."

This event is being coordinated by the Illinois Livestock Development Group, Illinois Milk Producers Association and the Kane County Farm Bureau.

To learn more about the Lenkaitis Holsteins and the event, visit their website at lenkaitisholsteins.com or follow them on social media @lenkaitisholsteins.

Directions: Lenkaitis Holsteins is located in the village of Campton Hills. The address is 6N509 Corron Road, St. Charles, 60175. From Randall Rd. take IL Route 64 3 miles west to Burlington Road, turn North and proceed two miles to Corron Road. Look for signs as you near the farmstead.

10,000 GALLON CHALLENGE
Support local farms & our neighbors in need.



Contributions as of May 16 totaled 7,876 gallons of milk committed to the Northern Illinois Food Bank and/or area food pantries. To join us on our way to our dairy focused 10,000 gallon hunger relief goal, visit www.kanegives.org/10000. For more information on the initiative, contact the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660.

The next PUBLIC opportunity to contribute is June 29 at the ICE CREAM SOCIAL at the Dairy OPEN HOUSE at Lenkaitis Holsteins in Campton Hills. See you there!

KCFB CALENDAR JUNE 2019

- 4** New Employee Seminar, Bloomington
- 12** FREP Noon Network, FPD Bioreactor site
Board of Directors, 7 pm
- 13** AITC Golf Outing, Pontiac
- 20** KC Board Ag Committee, 10am, CAB
- 25** KCFB Foundation fundraiser at Kane Co. Cougars, 6:30pm
- 28** Dairy Technical Tour, Lenkaitis Holsteins
- 29** Dairy OPEN HOUSE & Ice Cream Social, Lenkaitis Holsteins, 11-3

Help us serve ice cream...and community

The June 29 Ice Cream Social, part of the Dairy Open House at Lenkaitis Holsteins, is the perfect opportunity for Farm Bureau members to put agriculture's best foot forward, make new friends and serve the community. The Lenkaitis family has graciously agreed to let Farm Bureau volunteers serve the ice cream (donated by Dean Foods) and collect donations to benefit the KCFB Foundation's 10,000 Gallon Milk Challenge! 100% of

all contributions will go to the Northern Illinois Food Bank to buy milk for local food pantries.

We are seeking enthusiastic and energetic volunteers to assist in this endeavor, from approximately 10 am – 4 pm on

Saturday, June 29. You'll receive a free t-shirt and the satisfaction of knowing that your efforts will help to provide milk for hungry neighbors!

Volunteers are also sought for assistance in directing traffic, parking cars and other assorted duties for the Open House.

For more information or to volunteer to lend a hand, call 630 584-8660 and ask for Steve or Liz, or email steve@kanecfb.com

JUNE FEATURED PRODUCT *Seasoned Pork Chops*

Our featured product for this month is Imboden's Meats delicious seasoned pork chops. Each 5 lb. box comes in 8 oz. (10 per box) or 10 oz. (8 per box) and boneless and bone-in varieties. Each chop comes in a vacuum sealed plastic bag. Just thaw, cut it open and your ready to cook up a perfectly seasoned, thick, juicy pork chop every time. Price is (not including tax) \$24.90 per box for KCFB members \$28.63 for non-members. Plus Status members always receive a 5% discount on edible products at the Farm Bureau. Available while supply lasts. Available at the Kane County Farm Bureau, Randall Rd. and Oak Street in St. Charles.

Farm Toy of the Month—Deluxe Vehicle Gift Set

June's KCFB Country Store "Farm Toy of the Month" is a Deluxe Vehicle Gift Set. It features a John Deere row crop tractor with a removable bale mover and round bale, a John Deere industrial tractor with loader and backhoe, a 4 wheel drive John Deere tractor with a disk ripper and 4 extra wheels.

Regularly priced at \$40.93,

Farm Bureau members will receive a 10% discount in June. Those with "PLUS" member status always save an additional 10% on ALL non-edible products in the Country Store.

Stop by and check out our selection, and grab some delicious pork chops or kettle corn while you are here!



Popcorn/Kettle Corn below wholesale!

We are selling gourmet CreekStone Kettle Works Sweet, Savory and Premium Popcorns at 1/2 price at the Farm Bureau office. Our prices are below wholesale! In 2.5 to 10 oz. sizes, priced at \$2 for small and \$3-4 for large bags. Treat yourself before it's gone.

Father's Day is almost here...

On her special day, Mom wanted flowers...

DAD wants a vintage truck.
And we have one.

1966 Ford 100 289 V8 Automatic
Raffle Drawing July 21. Tickets
\$20, 3/\$50. Call 630-584-8660 or
use order form on page 6.



My day in Kane County Farm Bureau

By Courtney Vitzthum –
Illinois Farm Bureau
MSPR Program Specialist

Illinois Farm Bureau is lucky enough to have a county Farm Bureau office in almost every county in Illinois. While our overall mission is the same throughout the state, the way each county Farm Bureau operates can be as different as Case IH and John Deere. I began working for Illinois Farm Bureau in Bloomington in July of 2018 as the MSPR Programs Specialist, facilitating our youth and collegiate Farm Bureau programs. With almost a year of service under my belt, I have found that it is easy to get into a rhythm and forget that just because someone does something one way, doesn't mean that is the only way to do it.

In an effort to combat this way of thinking, I have taken it upon myself to get out to at least one county Farm Bureau office

per month, to gain a greater perspective of the programs, struggles, and lifeblood of our organization. This venture led me to my day in Kane County with County Farm Bureau Manager, Steve Arnold and staff.

As the Kane County Farm Bureau office is located in a much more urban area than I am used to, I was excited to observe the outstanding support the community gives to the agriculture industry through the County Board Agriculture Committee Meeting. It was surprising to learn that Kane County is one of the only County Boards in Illinois to utilize an Agriculture Committee. In addition to Farm Bureau, the Northern Illinois Food Bank and Illinois Farmers Market Association provide representation to truly encompass all that local agriculture has to offer this community and give insight and guidance to the Kane County Board.

The urban setting of this county Farm Bureau office made me see there is a greater need for agriculture literacy and education programs and that need provides a greater opportunity for employees and members to get creative with these programs and events. For many Illinoisans, seeing a tractor in the field on their drive to school or work is seen as an everyday, run-of-the-mill occurrence. As we get closer to the Chicagoland area, this opportunity becomes much more rare. While several county Farm Bureau's host a Touch-a-Tractor event, few have as great of an impact on how agriculture is perceived in the community. Thousands of urban families turn up to get an exclusive experience to learn about agriculture straight from the mouth of the farmer members of Kane County Farm Bureau.

Between governmental relations, a short thunderstorm, some great Italian Beef at Buona, writing my very own article for the *Kane County Farmer*, and learning about the endless tasks of a Farm Bureau Manager, I had an exciting day at the Kane County Farm Bureau office. Always be on the lookout for ways to broaden your horizons and see opportunities in the everyday, I'm confident what you learn will surprise you.

Be sure to come in and check out the KCFB Country Store for all of your agricultural toy supply needs! You won't be disappointed.



Courtney Vitzthum

Recruiter of the Month

Each month we honor the person who signs the most members into our organization. This month, the honor goes to Lulu Medina! Lulu has been a COUNTRY Financial Representative since January of 2017. Her office is located at 1161 Oak Street, North Aurora and she may be reached at 630-449-0910. Thank you, Lulu, for your continued support of the Kane County Farm Bureau and congratulations on your success.



Lulu Medina



June is National Dairy Month! Celebrate this delicious and product diverse month by thanking a dairy farmer. Kane County is home to several dairy farms and nationwide, 99% of dairy farms are family owned.

Dairy cows, on average, drink 30-50 gallons of water and eat 100 pounds of feed daily, which allows them to produce 70 pounds, or 8 gallons of milk per day. Dairy farmers work extremely hard to manage their herd so next time you treat yourself to a glass of milk, a slice of cheese, or an ice cream cone, be sure to thank a dairy farmer!

Welcome new members

You receive the *Kane County Farmer* because you are a Farm Bureau member. If you are a farm operator or owner, you benefit from a local, state and national organization committed to agriculture and your way of life.

If you do not have direct ties to farming, your membership helps promote local farms and farming, encourages wise use of our limited natural resources and preserves farmland and our agricultural heritage while allowing you to enjoy COUNTRY insurance and the many benefits of one of Illinois' premier membership organizations.

We appreciate your membership and continued support and we welcome your comments on the content of the *Farmer*. We encourage you to make recommendations about farm, home, food, natural resources, renewable energy or agricultural heritage and history related topics for inclusion in future issues of the *Farmer*.

KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD ATTENDANCE												
JANUARY 2019 THRU DECEMBER 2019												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
C. BRADLEY	X	X	X	X	X							
B. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X							
C. COLLINS	X	X	X	X	X							
J. ENGEL	X	X	X	X	X							
G. GAITSCH	X	X	X	X	X							
B. GEHRKE	X		X	X	X							
W. KECK		X	X	X	X							
M. KENYON	X	X	X	X	X							
K. KETTLEKAMP	X		X	X	X							
D. LEHRER	X	X	X	X	X							
A. LENKAITIS		X	X	X	X							
N. LONG	X	X	X	X	X							
D. PITSTICK	X		X	X	X							
W. SCHNEIDER	X	X	X	X	X							
J. WHITE	X	X	X	X	X							

Beef store is now open!
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Sample Packs make great gifts!

Dairy Technology Showcase—June 28th

The Illinois Milk Producers Association and University of Illinois Extension will host the 8th annual Dairy Technology Showcase Friday, June 28, 2019. The tour will highlight dairy technology and dairy management at Lenkaitis Holsteins Dairy Farm in Kane County near St. Charles.

"These tours provide an excellent opportunity for Illinois dairy farmers and industry representatives to get a look at the latest and greatest dairy technology and management," said Tasha Bunting, manager, Illinois Milk Producers Association. "The best part is, participants can really talk with dairy farmers who have implemented these systems and learn from one another."

The farm tour will be held at Lenkaitis Holsteins Dairy Farm, owned and operated by Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis along with Albert and Mary Etta Lenkaitis, located at 6N509 Corron Rd., St. Charles, 60175. The Lenkaitis family farm is home to 90 Holstein cows (mostly red and white) housed in a freestall facility. The freestall barn incorporates a modern manure handling system which includes a manure separator. The separated manure solids are then used as bedding with any extra sold to create an additional revenue stream.

Lenkaitis feed their calves a milk replacer diet which includes starter and hay, prior to weaning, in a recently retrofitted tiestall barn with an automated ventilation system. The family raises their own replacement heifers.

Cows are milked in an automated milking system using two GEA Monobox robotic milkers with an average of more than three milkings per cow each day. The milking herd is currently producing an average of 80 pounds of milk per cow, per day. The modern free stall and GEA robotic milking facility was built in 2017 to maximize technology, milking management, cow comfort, and labor management.

The farm stop will include an organized tour conducted by the Lenkaitis family along with management discussions and a research update session led by Dr. Phil Cardoso, University of Illinois.

Contact Tasha Bunting, at 309-557-3703 or tbunting@ilfb.org, for more information on the tour.

The tentative tour agenda is as follows:

- 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. – Guided farm tour
- 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. – Data Management in Automated Systems Presentation by Andy Lenkaitis
- 12:15 p.m.–1:00 p.m. – Lunch at the farm
- 1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m. – Dairy Research Update by Dr. Phil Cardoso and Dairy Focus Team
- 1:45 p.m.–2:30 p.m. – Self-guided farm visit

Support local farms
Text FARM to 52886

Kane County Farmer

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KCFB Foundation Ag & General Scholarship recipients

The Kane County Farm Bureau FOUNDATION will award \$25,000 in tuition assistance in the form of scholarships and internships this year to 20 high school and college students. The Kane County Farm Bureau established the FOUNDATION in 1989 to carry out charitable work in the advancement of agricultural literacy and prepare students for careers in the agriculture industry. Since then it has awarded hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships and internships.

Ten scholarship recipients are not listed below and were profiled in our May issue. They are: **Krystine Swanson**, President's Scholarship; **Catherine Austin** and **Austin Brockmann**, John Buck Memorial Scholarships; **Jarret VanAcker**, Ruth and Frank Carlson Scholarship; **Andrew Gould** and **Ethan Hoffman**, AGCO Parts Division scholarships; **Catherine Bend** and **Kristen Hoffman**, AGCO Global Women's Network Scholarships; **Erin Kettelkamp**, AGCO Parts Platinum Scholarship; **Jessica Bowgren**, Swanson Memorial Scholarship.

The following students were selected to receive \$1,000 KCFB FOUNDATION Scholarships. Congratulations to these future Ag industry leaders.

Elena Chapa of Maple Park, daughter of Paul Chapa and Angela Stastny, is currently attending Black Hawk East College majoring in Biology. She then hopes to further her education by attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in Animal Science. Her involvement in agriculture started at the young age of 5 when she began taking horseback lessons. Fast forward several years to a greater involvement in the equine industry, 4-H, and FFA. Being a part of these organizations has made her aware of the many careers paths available to her in the Ag industry. She hopes to positively impact the agriculture and agribusiness industries by working with different feed companies to develop new feeds and products for livestock.

Abigail DeDina, daughter of Gerry and Kelli DeDina of Hampshire, currently attends University of Wisconsin-River Falls and will graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Education. Growing up she was exposed to the Ag lifestyle by raising chickens and rabbits and being involved with 4-H county/state fairs. Her professional goals include to work in a high school and to either bring an interest to a program that is not thriving, or to bring an FFA program to a school that does not have one developed yet. Abigail has been an active member of her 4-H group by serving as either the President or the Treasurer over a nine year time span. She has also been an active member of the Association for Women in Agriculture, and Kane County Ambassadors.

Resident of Maple Park, but formerly of Batavia, **Monica Zimmerman**, is currently a junior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she is studying Crop Sciences. Not having grown up on a farm, Monica actively gained knowledge about the agriculture industry by taking on varied internships each summer. Last year she held an agronomy internship at CHS Elburn; where she learned about weed management, soils and insects.

Throughout her multiple internships within the industry she has learned about everything ranging from planting to weeding, harvesting, and even pest management. After graduation, her goal is to work in urban areas to develop urban farms, greenspaces, and community gardens. Developing programs to help combat food insecurity and inner city agriculture education are also areas she wants to focus on.

Genoa-Kingston High School Senior, **Nathan Nesler**, is well on his way to pursuing his goal of gaining a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business. Although he is undecided as to where he will be attending college in the fall he has been accepted to Iowa State, UW-Madison, and University of Iowa. Nathan has an extensive list of community services hours and activities, has been thoroughly involved in high school varying from being a member of: student council, FFA, a peer-mentor, football, basketball, peer tutoring, and the National Honor Society to name a few. He has also been awarded chapter degrees from FFA, and been named an All-Conference and All-Area team for both football and basketball and was selected as the Big Northern Conference Scholar Athlete for 2017 and 2018. After college he would like to work with technology and wants to contribute to agriculture through precision farming and analysis of data collection.

Senior of Kaneland High School, **Kayla Baldrige**, of Elburn, has a bright future ahead of her in her pursuit of gaining a dual major in Environmental and Natural Resources with Rangeland Ecology, at the University of Wyoming. She wishes to use these majors in becoming a Wildlife Biologist or to work her way towards being a National Park Administrator. Her goals include tracking endangered animals to radio collar, to search and to get rid of invasive plants, she hopes to preserve the parks and wild animal's habitats, but to also help local farmers in the water, land and air quality that



Elena Chapa



Abigail DeDina



Monica Zimmerman



Nathan Nesler



Kyla Baldrige



Vanessa Gould



Shelby Hannula



Alexander Turk



Anastasia Kurth

affects their crops and livestock. Kyla has shown great promise in pursuing her goals by receiving the Outstanding Accomplishment Agricultural Proficiency Award and the Star Chapter Agricultural Placement, and on top of that all she was awarded the Illinois Big 12 All Conference Academic Honors.

Vanessa Gould, daughter of Chris and Dana Gould, has been involved in agriculture all her life. Her family both farms and runs a "breed to wean" swine facility in Maple Park. Growing up, she worked on the farm, was a part of FFA, showed livestock in 4-H, and still continues to play sports throughout her college career. Knowing it's important to give back, she also has donated her time to organizations like Feed My Starving Children, Children's Hunger Fund Food Pack, has helped out at Marklund, HorsePower, and has gone on mission trips through church. She currently is attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is now majoring in Agricultural Education, minoring in Animal Sciences. In order to combine her love for agriculture and its community with her desire to open doors to agriculture for others, her hopes lie in becoming a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

The KCFB Foundation Agriculture scholarship was awarded to **Shelby Hannula**, daughter of Jim and Laurie Hannula of Elburn. Shelby developed an interest in agriculture through being involved with Kaneland High School's FFA program, where she participated in FFA events such as: Landuse, Dairy Cattle Judging, Dairy Foods Judging, as well as being the Kaneland FFA Chapter Treasurer. Through her experiences she found a love for Ag! She plans on attending Illinois State University in the fall and will be majoring in Agriculture Education; in hopes of becoming an Agriculture Teacher.

With a strong farming background, **Alexander Turk** credits growing up on his grandfather's

farm to his strong work ethic. Not afraid, even a very young age, to help fix tractors or other machinery that had broken down in the fields, he learned quickly about the business of farming as a way of life and how immediate decisions could affect the future. Alex is attending Illinois State University, majoring in Agronomy Management and Engineering Technology. Besides growing up on a farm, being a member of FFA really opened his world up to the many options for careers in Ag. Horticulture, Mechanics, Engineering, Agronomy, just to name a few. After graduation Alex would like to work on improving existing GPS technology for agriculture and developing new programs/technology.

Anastasia Kurth, daughter of Gregory and Regina Kurth of Geneva, is a senior at Geneva Community High School. This fall, she will attend the University of Wisconsin Platteville and major in Crop and Soil Science. Not growing up on a farm, Anastasia's interest in agriculture began when she was diagnosed with many different food allergies. This piqued her interest in corn and soy alternatives and availability.

She then became involved in horticulture through the Fox Valley Career Center and was able to join the Kaneland FFA Chapter. In FFA, she learned about agronomy and agricultural scientists and after college she hopes to work in research and development at a seed company.

Want a greater connection to the farm? Professional membership is tailor-made for you!

If your paycheck depends on food, farms, or agriculture, we would like YOU to consider becoming a Kane County Farm Bureau "Professional" member. This new class of membership was designed for those with farm connections – whose career path may have led them away from daily chores. It seeks to offer a greater connection to the world of agriculture, local farms and food.

The Board of Directors has approved NEW exclusive member benefits in information services, educational offerings, leadership development and professional networking for KCFB Professional members. This includes Ag, Farm, and Food news delivered to your door weekly through the Illinois Farm Bureau's FarmWeek, a \$75 value. Another exclusive of Professional membership in KCFB is FREE registration to attend 1 of 6 Illinois Farm Bureau statewide conferences on farm, food and agriculture topics. Registration for these networking and learning opportunities alone cost several times the annual cost of membership dues, and included is the American Farm Bureau Federation conference and trade show, held in various sun-belt cities throughout

the U.S. each January. This offer is valid during the first year of membership and conferences are held during various times throughout the year.

As a professional member, you can help us advocate for area farms and farmers, promote local foods and global trade, support farmland protection, champion hunger relief and awareness, protect national resources, and defend property rights.

For those who are already Farm Bureau "A" (Associate) members – you can upgrade or re-classify to this new Professional membership class and receive all the benefits offered in addition to what you have already been enjoying. Do it by July 31 and get a FREE Pillow Pet!

The Kane County Farm Bureau would like to encourage any Associate Member who is employed in an agriculture related field and has a strong interest in the future of agriculture to consider upgrading to the Professional membership classification. Please contact the Member Service Center at the Kane County Farm Bureau at 630-584-8660 or email us at member@kanecfb.com for more information.

Upgrade your membership to Professional Status TODAY.

Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

KCFB member classifications

KCFB members fall into 3 main membership classifications as follows:

- **MM (Regular Member)** – for farmers and farmland owners. Those who qualify for Regular member status will only be accepted as Regular Members.
- **PM (Professional Member)** – for individuals that are

employed in farm, food or agriculture related careers and occupations, but their income is not directly from farming.

- **A (Associate Member)** – for those who do not meet the qualifications of Regular or Professional membership.

Individuals (but not entities) who are Regular members, as well as all Professional mem-

bers, have voting privileges and elect Directors to provide governance for the Kane County Farm Bureau. Entities which have farming interests (partnerships, trust, corporations) will only be accepted for membership as Regular members in accordance with KCFB bylaws, but have NO voting privileges.

AG LITERACY CORNER

By Suzi Myers



Last night I attended one of the many graduations held at this time of the year. As I watched the new graduates come forward, shake hands with the teachers and receive their certificate, I remembered when I was one of these graduates 12 years ago. In 2007, I became a Kane County Certified Naturalist (KCCN'er). It was one of the most life changing events of my life.

As a teacher, I was very environmentally conscious and tried to teach my students the wonders of nature and their world. The kids each adopted a tree for the year. They recorded pertinent

facts about their trees, learned about the species, watched it throughout the seasonal changes and simply sat under it to read their book. We took monthly walks to a nearby forest preserve, learning about the plants and animals in both the water and on the land. We planted a tree for Arbor Day, incubated eggs that turned into darling little chicks, watched monarch eggs hatch into teeny tiny caterpillars that grew so quickly, formed a chrysalis and completing the life cycle, flew away as a beautiful butterfly. We spent a few days in outdoor education at Lorado Taft campus in Oregon, IL. We had worms in our

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classroom. We recycled, reused and reduced as much as we could. We even looked at different soils found throughout the United States. My classroom was always a busy place, frequently visited by different bugs or such that visited for a day and then returned to the place they were found (the 24 hour rule ... observe then put back).

I was always looking for more knowledge to pass on to my students. I took NIU classes in outdoor education until there were no more. I signed up for area classes concerning our environment. Then a new program was started, the Kane CCN. I was lucky enough to be in the first class.

What is Kane County

Certified Naturalists program? Well, during year one, you learn about restoration, plants, geology, trees, all facets of nature. Then you take field trips to some of the local forest preserves and parks to see firsthand what you have been studying. The second year of the program is full of learning and volunteering opportunities to hone your knowledge or interests. Then, you graduate. To keep your certification, you must continue with both education and volunteering.

So, what's life changing about this? Friends. Simple as that. Working and learning together created strong friendships. We somehow, magically, formed a small group of women

who have seen each other through good times and bad. We are a support group for each other. We travel together, share meals, recipes and information, take walks, garden, kayak, and enjoy nature with one another. These women have blessed my life. I no longer have the students to share nature with, but now I have others who share the same passions and interests in life. I can also continue to learn, which is so important to me. All thanks to KCCN.

So, congratulations to all those new graduates. May your life be blessed by those friendships you have created on your way to completing your goal.

Enjoy!

Pillow Pets? KCFB gives second chances

When AGCO Parts of Batavia announced a limited time "fire-sale" on tractor shaped Pillow Pets at our 2018 Touch-A-Tractor to fulfill a community need, these cute & cuddly items flew off the shelves. If you're not familiar with Pillow Pets, they are stuffed chenille toys with Velcro straps that allow them to be changed from a stuffed animal (or tractor, as the case may be) into a decorated pillow.

Those provided by AGCO included tractors in their line-up or history (Oliver, Massey-Ferguson and Challenger) in 18" and 16" sizes and in traditional colors, or for the Massey and Challenger, also in pink. The Pillow Pets normally retail for \$20-25, but AGCO slashed prices to serve the community.

In addition to the estimated 2,000 sold to local AGCO employees and at the KCFB Foundation's Touch-A-Tractor, and a similar number sold to area County Farm Bureaus, the Kane County Farm Bureau stocked hundreds as "membership extras", to incentivize future membership and "PLUS" members, and to help grow the association.

At their May meeting, the Board of Directors approved a "distribution" plan for the Pillow Pets. It includes incentives for non-members, and for existing members of all classes (regular or voting, professional and associate), to receive a FREE Pillow Pet. Here's how:

NEW MEMBERS – A limited time offer, good ONLY in person at the Kane County Fair, July 17-21. Join the KCFB and receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Cost \$20. Includes first year of membership, information services and benefit eligibility.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – Upgrade your membership to a Professional Membership by July 31 (restrictions apply – must be employed in a farm, food or agriculture related career) to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Professional Membership includes additional information services

and eligibility for no-cost educational conference attendance. (See page 3 for info) **OR** add the PLUS Package to your membership to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. PLUS package additions for memberships expiring in 2019-20 include 1 FREE Pillow Pet, a 10% discount on all products and merchandise in the KCFB Country Store, AND 1 complimentary entry to the 2019 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle (before July 21 only). Call (630) 584-8660 to add. (Cost, \$25)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS & REGULAR (VOTING) MEMBERS – Add the PLUS Package to your membership to receive 1 FREE Pillow Pet. PLUS package additions for memberships expiring in 2019 or 2020 include 1 FREE Pillow Pet, a 10% discount on all products and merchandise in the KCFB Country Store, AND BEFORE July 21 include 1 complimentary entry to the 2019 Winner's Choice Tractor Raffle. Call (630) 584-8660 to add. (Cost, \$25).

MEMBER GET-A-MEMBER – Already belong to the KCFB? You do if you're receiving the *Kane County Farmer!* Tell a friend or neighbor about the benefits of membership (and the Pillow Pet). Go to www.kanecfb.com/membership for an application and print your name in the Recommended by Field. If the application is received and approved by August 31, YOU and he/she will each get 1 FREE Pillow Pet. Questions, call (630) 584-8660.

All membership applications and requests for re-classification of membership are reviewed by our Association's Board of Directors for eligibility and proper classification. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.



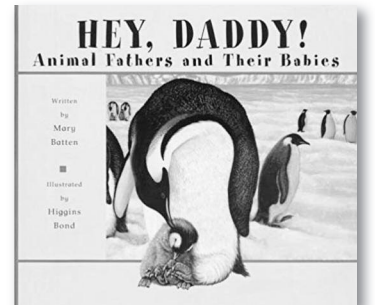
Book of the month

To help celebrate Father's Day this month, Mary Batten has written a factual book concerning the role of fathers during the rearing of their children. Your child will know some of these animals, like the king penguins, but others will be new to them. These animals help support the basic concept of the book, which is many animals need their fathers and mothers, each in their own way, to successfully grow up.

The end of the book refers to

human fathers also taking a place in the child's life. "Human daddies are unique. They spend more time with their children than any other animal daddy. They love their babies, carry them, play with them, feed them, protect them and teach them. It takes someone very special to be a good daddy."

The book can be checked out of our KCFB lending library, which has been supported by the Bob Konen family for many years.



Hey, Daddy!
Animal Fathers and Their Babies
by Mary Batten

Even the biggest goals start with simple steps



Bob Effner, CLF®, LUTCF
St. Charles – Elgin
Agency Manager
St. Charles
630-584-0001



Ashraf Gerges
Aurora
630-898-3750



Bob Riedel
West Dundee
847-428-5434



Todd Wilcox
St. Charles
630-762-1326



Bob Kearns
S. Elgin
847-888-3200



Gary Bolger
West Dundee
847-531-6110



Bobbi Boston
St. Charles
630-485-5155



Michael O'Brien
Geneva
630-762-0852



Sherri Schramer
Elburn
630-365-9500



Keith Eakins
St. Charles
630-762-1324



Mehul Patel
Geneva
630-492-5317



Dominick Davero
Elburn
630-365-3737



Kelly Landorf
St. Charles
630-762-1328



David Berreles
Elgin
847-794-1244



Chuck Quick
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Donna Tonovitz
St. Charles
630-549-7694



Victor Alvarado
Elgin
847-742-0003



Josh Austin
Hampshire
847-683-2100



Orazio Difruscolo
St. Charles
630-549-7696



Luke Fawkes
Elgin
847-742-0001



Dan Cooper
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Edward Stuehm
Geneva
630-845-8245



Sherry Lochen
Elgin
847-742-0001



Ted Schuster
Sugar Grove
630-466-9600



Deb Stob
Geneva
630-208-0890

Contact your local COUNTRY Financial representative today!



Farm Facts @ Fun

Compiled by Suzi Myers

Flag Day

Celebrate Flag Day with crafts, recipes & song

Flag day is a day for all Americans to celebrate and show respect for our flag, its designers and makers. Our flag is representative of our independence and our unity as a nation ... one nation, under God, indivisible. Our flag has a proud and glorious history. It was at the lead of every battle fought by Americans. Many people have died protecting it. It even stands proudly on the surface of the moon. As Americans, we have every right to be proud of our culture, our nation, and our flag. So raise the flag today and every day with pride.

The week of June 14th is considered National Flag Week in the United States and the U.S. President urges Americans, via proclamation, to fly the American flag all week.

Did you know?

- ★ Flag Day is celebrated on June 14th, because that was the day that Congress officially recognized it as the flag of the United States in 1777.
- ★ In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson is recorded as officially setting June 14, as Flag Day. Even with Wilson's act, on a federal level the holiday was not passed by Congress.
- ★ It is believed that the idea of celebrating Flag Day in the United States originated with a Wisconsin teacher, Bernard J. Cigrand, in 1885.
- ★ The 13 stripes on the flag represent the 13 original colonies. The stars stand for the 50 states of our nation.
- ★ The colors of the American flag are symbolic. The red stands for valor and hardiness. Blue stands for justice, perseverance, and vigilance.
- White stands for innocence and purity.
- ★ The design of the American Flag was not made official until 1912.
- ★ The design of the American flag has changed 27 times. The last change was on July 4, 1960 to include the 50th state, Hawaii.
- ★ A 17-year-old student, Robert G. Heft, designed the flag as it appears today.
- ★ Despite the fact that Flag Day is not a federal holiday many places around the United States hold parades and festivals to honor the American flag.
- ★ Suzi Myer's grandson, Colin, was born on Flag Day.
- ★ Fairfield, Washington is home to the oldest continuous Flag Day parade in the United States. The parade has been

Handprint American Flag

Materials:
White construction paper
Red and blue paint
Method

Mark off a rectangle on top left of the paper big enough for child's hand print (where they will NOT make red stripes)

Have child paint stripes of red on the white paper (would be a good idea to show them a flag, so they understand to leave room between the stripes)

Put blue paint on the palm of child's hand and let them make hand print in the reserved top left corner.

held every year except for 1918, since 1909.

★ The actual flag that inspired "The Star Spangled Banner" still exists. The famous Star-Spangled Banner that inspired our national anthem had 15 stars and 15 stripes.

★ Historically, the story that Betsy Ross created the first flag has been passed down through the generations. However, it is actually believed that a United States Congressman named Francis Hopkinson created the first flag.

★ Nicknames for the flag include the Stars and Stripes and Old Glory.

★ The "canton" is the correct name for the dark blue rectangular area on the top left quarter of the American emblem.

When dry, be sure to have child write name and date on the back to remember when they made the flag.

Patriotic song

A Flag for Me and You
(sung to "Three Blind Mice")

Red, white and blue,
Red, white and blue,
A flag for me, A flag for you.

It is the flag of our great nation,
It's honored by each generation.

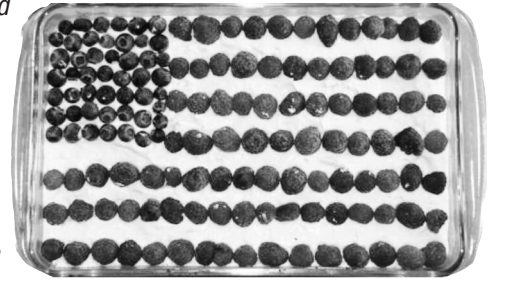
Join me now in a celebration,
Red, white and blue.

Graham cracker flags

An easy treat children can make for Flag Day. Maybe one for each family member for dessert or snack.

Gather a few packages of graham crackers, white frosting, ice

cream sticks, small paper cups, and red white and blue food coloring. Give each child 3 paper cups with a tablespoon of frosting inside each cup. Drop food coloring in each cup - 1 red, 1 blue, 1 white. Give each child an



ice cream stick and instruct them to mix the food coloring into each cup. Then allow to design flag on the cracker using the frosting.

Easy Flag Day Dessert

(easy enough for children to help make)

Basically, you're going to be making a 9x11 inch cake (9x13 would work too), covering it with white icing and then garnishing it with blueberries and raspberries so it looks like a flag.

Note: There are seven raspberry stripes. The bottom of the blueberry square ends at the fourth stripe from the top.

The type of cake you use can be whatever you prefer - here are a few suggestions.

- White or Chocolate cake mix
- Vanilla icing
- Pint of blueberries and pint of raspberries, washed

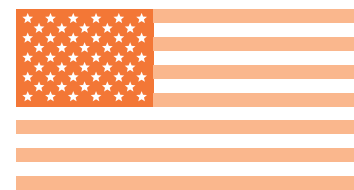
Prepare cake according to package directions.

Ice the cake with vanilla icing. Decorate with blueberries and raspberries so it looks like a flag.

Rules exist for displaying the American flag.

They include:

- Display the flag from sunrise to sunset - if displayed at night it should be illuminated;
- The flag should never touch the floor or the ground;
- The blue field should be in the upper left hand corner when displayed on a window or wall;
- When raising the flag it should be done quickly and when lowering it, it should be done ceremoniously.
- When two or more flags are flown on the same pole, the American flag must be at the top
- If the edges become tattered through wear, the flag should be repaired or replaced.
- When a flag is so tattered that it can no longer serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

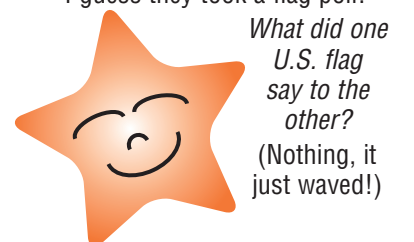


June is ...

- Aquarium Month
- Candy Month
- Dairy Month
- National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month
- Rose Month
- Turkey Lovers Month

June Holidays

- 6 D Day, WWII.
- 13 National Weed Your Garden Day
- 14 Flag Day.
- 16 Father's Day 21 Summer Solstice - longest day of the year.
- 18 Go Fishing Day
- 19 Juneteenth (Celebrates 1865 freedom of all slaves in US)
- 26 National Canoe Day



Congratulations

Roberta Sandberg from Sugar Grove is this month's winner! Her name was chosen from the entries received for correctly completing last month's Word Search Puzzle. For her participation, she receives a seed starter kit! Thank you, Roberta, for reading the *Kane County Farmer* and continue to watch each month for more great opportunities from the Kane County Farm Bureau.

Flag Day

R E N Z N B K U S E Y D F F M N O U A A
V T T M Q L L T V T L G E N O O M I P N
A I B X W X R U F P A B K S T Y O H E X
L H G I C I L I E D X B I M I K Y E N A
O W T Q P G F S T A R S X S Z G T G C T
R P P E M F L A G D N V D E I R N I L S
I F S S N O I T A R E N E G I V R Z T Z
A N O C X B U Z R L Q J X H X E I A D E
R K N U T S Q L P S U D T E M A T D C R
R E D O R C E M N N T G T A A E P N N Y
D Q Y U C T E I E M H G G C S O E D E I
R V R J V E E P N E N G S X L D L C Y R
U P O S R D N E S O P B R H N B I T A R
W X B E Y E A C N E L G W E F T I Y W I
B P I A F U B D E T R O P I S N P Q K J
Y E J G M O R D N L H E C U U Y O Q G Q
N X H G U Z K U R E D T J M U O R S H T
N O I T A N D G F N T D Q D W M A B C V
Y P W Y S O G R I C E L E B R A T I O N
B Y M C U F V Z P R D I T O L Q G E T N

AMERICA
BLUE
CELEBRATION
COLONIES
DESIGN
FIFTY
FLAG
FOURTEENTH
GENERATIONS
INDEPENDENCE
INDIVISIBLE
INNOCENCE
JUNE
JUSTICE
MOON
NATION
RED
RESPECT
STARS
STATES
STRIPES
THIRTEEN
UNITY
VALOR
WHITE

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____ Email _____ Age _____

Return to: Kane County Farm Bureau, 2N710 Randall Road, St Charles, IL 60174 by June 15, 2019 to be entered in our drawing for a flag themed prize. Prize must be picked up at the KCFB office.

In search of the best movie app ever? Check your IFB Benefits app

If you've been to the movies lately, then you know that there are so many choices before you arrive and after you get there. Do you buy your tickets before you leave the house to save you time once you arrive at the theater? Do you take a risk and wait in what might be a long line filled with unsure and indecisive patrons, or do you use one of the towering kiosks provided and hope that it's easy to navigate and actually gives you

your tickets this time?

As a Farm Bureau member, you already have the best answer to the above movie-going dilemma and you have it right at your fingertips. Grab your smart phone, which most likely was already in your hand anyway, and tap the black IFB Benefits app. Voila! Instant access to not only tens and hundreds of discounts on businesses immediately surrounding you, but if you press the (3) bars in the upper left

corner, you can "search" for movies OR just click the "Movie Showtimes" header.

Say you searched for movies. Immediately the venues closest to you pop up - for us here at the Farm Bureau on Randall Road, that includes, Cinemark, Regal Cinemas, Marcus Theaters, and AMC. And the app expands the theatres in an ever widening circle from your present location - or, you can search by city or zip code if you want to know what's playing in say, San Francisco (or Elgin, Wheaton, Sycamore, etc., you get the picture!).

What's great about these theaters popping up is the SAVINGS. The IFB Benefits app saves you 21% at Cinemark on e-tickets with NO expiration date. Scroll down to Regal Cinemas and you can save 30%, again, with NO expiration date! Prefer Marcus theaters? Well, you can save 28% on a 4-Pack of Platinum tickets. At AMC, you can save a whopping 40% on AMC® Yellow eTickets. And almost anywhere you go, Redbox offers "Rent 1 DVD, Get 1 DVD Free for the first night".

Please do read the details in the app for further information on redemption, but how exciting knowing that you have the ease of buying tickets wherever you are AND can save money.

Try finding savings like this on any of the other movie apps, in fact, you might get charged more, "convenience fees" are often \$2 or more per ticket and who wants to pay more?

Now, if you go back to the (3) bars and you click on "Movie Showtimes". This downloads all of the movie theaters within 10 miles of your current location, within 20+ miles, and then 30+ miles (or again, by city or zip code selected). Click on a particular theater and you have instant access to each movie that is playing, the main actor(s), show times, run time, trailers, reviews and a synopsis. It's that easy! Click the back arrow to find another theater until you finally find your happy place in that plush reclining chair with the big screen in front of you.

Don't have the app but now you're curious? Type <https://ilfb.abenity.com> into your browser. You will then be asked to Sign In and Register using your membership number to create a username and password. Once you've completed those tasks, then either go to the App Store on your iPhone or the Google Play Store on your Android. Search for Illinois Farm Bureau Member Benefits

or Abenity and follow the prompts and you'll be ready to start saving!



Search the app store on your iOS device (iPad or iPhone) or the Google Play on your Android for "Illinois Farm Bureau member benefits" to download the member benefit app and start saving at many of the local stores, restaurants, THEATERS and service providers you already frequent in the Fox River Valley and beyond. Enable location service to get alerts and reminders while you travel. Call 630 584-8660 for more information.

ALOT helps ag leaders today

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) created Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT), an agricultural leadership development program designed to give participants a head-start on tackling tomorrow's responsibilities.

Twenty-one IFB members representing 17 counties have successfully completed the 40th ALOT program. Joseph White of Batavia represented Kane County. The 2019 ALOT ses-

sions were held in Oglesby, Cambridge, Polo, Springfield, and Bloomington. To date, over 1000 participants have graduated from the program.

The nine-week training program allows participants to study and develop leadership skills in the areas of communication, political process, agricultural economics, and global issues. The 2020 ALOT program will be held in Central Illinois.



Pictured are (left to right): Steve Stallman, IAA District 16 Director; Joseph White of Batavia; and Randy Poskin, IAA District 6 Director.

What's new in the Country Agencies?

St. Charles Agency, Bob Effner, Agency Manager

ORAZIO DIFRUSCOLO has been named the Rep of the Month for April 2019 in the St. Charles/Elgin Agency, as announced by Agency Manager, Robert J. Effner, Sr., CLF®, LUTCF. Orazio has provided tangible plans for addressing the immediate and long term insurance needs of his clients through COUNTRY Financial's diverse products and services: Auto, Farm, Home, Life, Business, Retirement. Let Orazio's expertise help you! You may reach Orazio at 630-549-7696, orazio.difruscolo@countryfinancial.com, or [cial.com/orazio.difruscolo/. Congratulations, Orazio!](https://representatives.countryfinan-</p></div>
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Aurora Agency, Kevin Gomes, Agency Manager

Ryan Mizgate, Financial Representative with the Aurora Agency, is our Financial Representative of the Month for April, 2019. Ryan began his career with COUNTRY Financial in June of 2014 and services clients out of his office located at: 1161 Oak Street North Aurora 60542, (630) 907-9485. Ryan's professionalism, community involvement and vast knowledge of auto, home, life, commercial and financial products make him a great person to do business with. Congratulations, Ryan!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED AD RATES
Classified advertising rates: 20 cents per word/\$20 minimum (60 words or less). **DISCOUNTS** for members: Associate members, 20%; Voting members, 30%; PLUS members, 40%. Advance payment requested. Ads due by the 15th of every month for the next issue. No advertising (classified or display) for financial or insurance services will be accepted. Call 630-584-8660.

SERVICES

Jim Verhaeghe & Sons, Inc. - Tree removal, tree trimming, & stump grinding. Backhoe work & Tile Lines. Fully insured - Free Estimates - Jim Verhaeghe Sr. Call: 847 334 5730

WANTED

Want to buy older vintag reel type lawn mowers call Tom. 630-661-9293

Want to buy vintage & used tools Call Chris - Also, we do cleanouts. Call: 630 550 7182

FOR SALE

Like new narrow white wall or black set of auto tires. Regular \$550 plus tax. Size 9225/60,R17 EX 600-\$225. Set of 4 Difinity tires. Contact Burt, 847-802-4400

7 ton tag trailer. 2 Axle, heavy duty, 22ft ramps, 280 miles. \$4,500 OBO. Call 630-334-2509

1999 Ford XLT 150 pickup loaded. 130 k, auto V-8. New 7.5 ft plow. Cap-Aluminum wheels. (Estate Sale) \$5,500 OBO. Call: 630-334-2509

John Deere 400 Lawn Tractor. Power steering, 20 HP kohler auto snow blower. Plow, cab with lights/wipers, disc, 60" mower-3 pt. Pull cart. \$5,500 OBO Call: 630-334-2509

2000 Jeep Cherokee 4X4 Limited. All power, no rust. \$6,500 OBO. Call: 630-334-2509

1946 John Deere H. Electric start and lights, PTO, Power lift, fenders. Rebuilt motor, many NOS parts, new tires. Mostly painted, needs completion, Call Richard. 847-361-4578

Farm Bureau Group Travel destinations

Farm Bureau & Lindstrom travel have TWO fantastic tours!

Learn more about our exclusive travel opportunities! Now is the perfect chance to travel and invite your friends to join you!

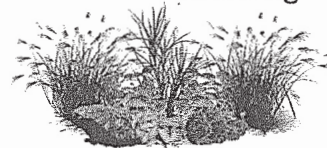
California Gold & Wine Country (July 22-27, 2019)
Tulip Time on Jewels of the Rhine (April 5-15, 2020)

Please call Liz at the KCFB, 630-584-8660 for more information.

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Winners Choice Raffle KCFB Foundation

Please send me _____ tickets (\$20 each or 3 for \$50)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

Return with check made payable to Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation, 2N710 Randall Road, St. Charles, IL 60174 OR charge my:

Visa MC Discover # _____ Exp ____/____/____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Farm Bureau calls for quick resolution on China trade

America's farmers need a swift resolution to the ongoing trade war between the U.S. and China, American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said in a letter to President Trump.

The six-year downturn in farm prices that has produced "near-unprecedented economic uncertainty and hardship" is worsening as a result of Chinese tariffs, he wrote. "U.S. farmers and ranchers now face a third

wave of tariff increases by China in retaliation against the latest increase in U.S. tariffs that went into effect last Friday, May 10. The mere threat sent prices further downward for certain commodities last week."

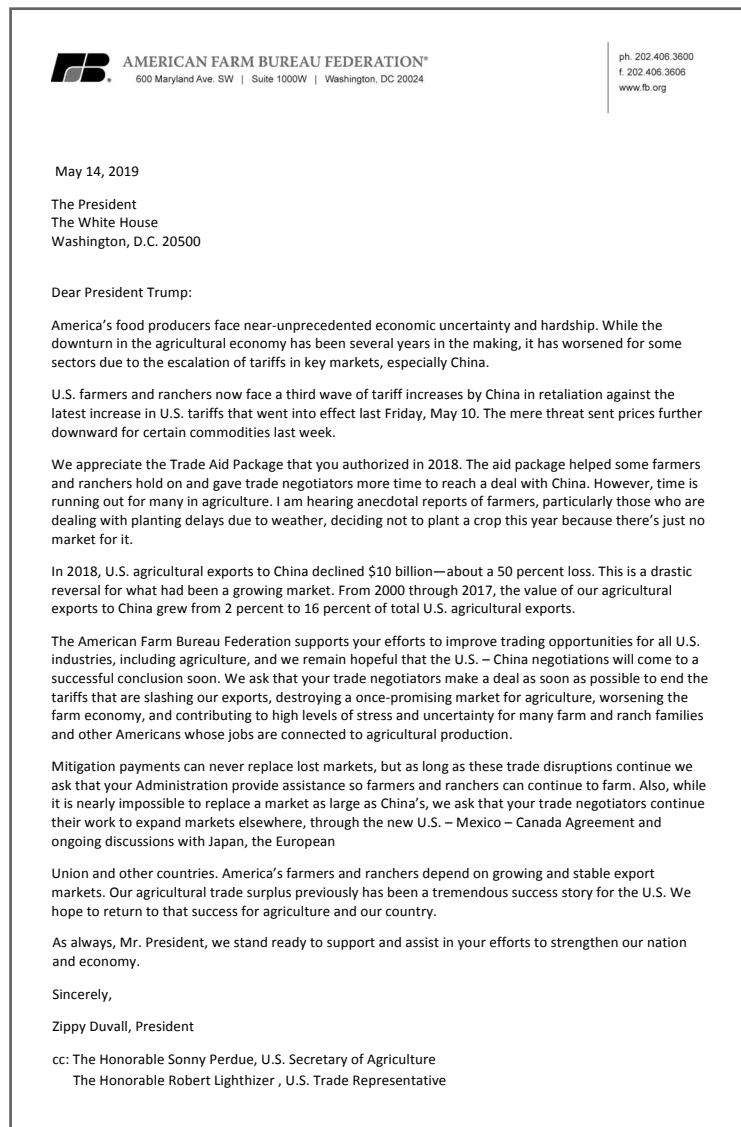
Bad weather this spring has only added to difficulties posed by trade challenges, as some farmers may opt not to plant a crop at all this year, Duvall told the President. An aid package

would help some continue to farm, he added, but the real solution is open markets.

"We ask that your trade negotiators make a deal as soon as possible to end the tariffs that are slashing our exports, destroying a once-promising market for agriculture, worsening the farm economy, and contributing to high levels of stress and uncertainty for many farm and ranch families and other Americans whose jobs are

connected to agricultural production."

Duvall also called for progress on trade agreements with Mexico, Canada, Japan and the European Union. "Our agricultural trade surplus previously has been a tremendous success story for the U.S.," Duvall told the President. "We hope to return to that success for agriculture and our country."



FB delegation visits German farms

Farm Bureau members who grow diverse crops and livestock in different Illinois regions recently learned how German farmers sell their products directly to consumers. The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest organized the transatlantic dialogue. Illinois Farm Bureau FB sponsored an Illinois farmer delegation to meet German farmers, including two Kane County farmers.

Ellen Kamps of St. Charles and Carolyn Gehrke of Elgin toured diverse farms in Bavaria, primarily near the border with Liechtenstein and Austria. The farms, mostly family farms, raise a variety of livestock, operate a dairy and grow various crops.

Several farmers operate agri-

tourism businesses on their farms. These include restaurants and a distillery. Kamps and Gehrke learned how German farmers reach consumers through marketing. Both were especially interested in the farm operations



Ellen Kamps (L) and Carolyn Gehrke

Hultine expressed interest in group marketing efforts that allow smaller farmers to reach larger buyers.

One unique way to reach traveling consumers was a highway rest area that allows

German farmers to sell food and produce. The group visited the rest area market and ate lunch at its restaurant that serves only locally grown produce.

Other stops took Illinois visitors to a beef slaughterhouse and a Fendt tractor manufacturing plant.

Throughout the tour, the Illinois farmers had opportunities to discuss issues with German farmers and to speak with German agricultural officials about regulations, policy and trade.

Young Farmers at Open House preview

Fourteen area Young farmers gathered in Campton Township on a rainy Wednesday in early May to barbecue, socialize and review plans for the June 29 Dairy Open House at Lenkaitis Holsteins. The group will be assisting farm hosts Andy and Sarah Lenkaitis with Open House tours, parking, and activities including an Ice Cream Social to benefit our hungry neighbors through the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's 10,000 Gallon

Milk Challenge.

The group plans to gather again in June to finalize Open House assignments and prepare for July's Kane County Fair, where they hope to host a live drone exhibit and demonstration, and show videos and photos of area Young Farmers in action performing tillage, planting and harvest operations or livestock care on Kane County farms. Those images are requested to be brought on flash drives at the next meeting.

You're invited to join the Kane County Farm Bureau Young Farmers the group of. Join young (18-35 years), local agriculture enthusiasts from around Kane County as they socialize and learn more about upcoming local and statewide activities for 2019 at their next gathering. For more information or to be added to the contact list and be notified of the next activity, please contact Steve Arnold at (630) 584-8660 or steve@kanecfb.com.



Illinois' only County Board Agriculture Committee meets the third Thursday of each month at the County Administration Building in Geneva to discuss the latest in agriculture, farm and food issues. Two not-for-profits, Kane County Farm Bureau and Northern Illinois Food Bank, report activities at each meeting. In this May 2019 photo, the Committee hears a report from the Illinois Farmers Market Association.

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Growing To Serve You Better

Thank you...

Many volunteers contribute to the success of Touch-A-Tractor. The bringing together of families, the smiles on the faces of the kids...and the farmers, who are rightly proud of their profession, made it all worthwhile! Kane County Farm Bureau and our Foundation offer thanks to the following individuals for making equipment available, for demonstrations, help with set-up and staffing during the event and otherwise assisting in the success of this farm-city relations and Foundation fund-raising program. We apologize to anyone we inadvertently omitted. Without your help, Touch-A-Tractor would not be possible.

- Gladys Arnold
- Craig Bradley
- Wayne Gehrke
- Bob Gehrke
- Lisa Geisler
- Wayne Schneider
- Louise Johnson
- Mike Kenyon
- Dale Pitstick
- Joe White
- Jason White
- Karl Kettelkamp
- Flo Dangelo
- Nan Long
- Bill Collins
- Chris Collins
- John Verner
- Dan Kocher
- Tom Runty
- COUNTRY Financial**
- David Berreles
- Victor Alvarado
- Kelly Landorf
- Mehul Patel

- AGCO Parts Employees, Batavia**
- Andrea Achermann
- Austin Henkelman
- Belinda Meyer
- Franky Achermann
- Joshua Converse
- Laurie Cantu
- Mark Crowder
- Nikolay Achermann
- Reuven Chavira
- Will Huber
- Jessica Pall
- Erica Bourassa
- Carol Scott
- Miranda Wright
- Bill Smith
- Von Thomas
- Cindy Woodward
- Katie Rentas
- Cindy Rentas
- Kate Dillon
- Bill Smith
- Sara Smith

- Jamie Seifert
- Connie Ferrer
- Tim Scott
- AAIC (American Agricultural Insurance Company, Schaumburg)**
- Doug Walls
- Dustin Turner
- Chhan Jennings
- Dawn Schulze
- Central FFA**
- Jayne Munoz
- Madison Marcum
- Emily Delagado
- Emilie Coloma
- Adrian Escalante
- Kelly Williams
- Jordan Kozar
- Madison Lamberti
- Kaneland FFA**
- Maria Rios
- Ty Vaughan

- Hinckley-Big Rock FFA**
- Aurora Grivetti
- Elburn Lions Club
- Hawk Ford
- For providing Tractors-**
- Bruce Nagel
- Tom Runty
- Larry Koesche
- Phil Leman
- Dan Kocher
- Dennis Erikson
- Eldon Gould
- Tim Kehoe
- Jim Lickteig
- Randy Pauli
- Randy Wilkening
- AC McCartney
- Implement
- Aitorfer Cat®
- Jami White
- Joseph White

Young Farmer Tour

Top row, left to right:

Sarah (foreground) and Andy Lenkaitis explain how the computer records production information for each cow as it is milked by the robotic milkers in their new dairy barn.

A circular robot also makes rounds in the barn several times each day pushing feed toward the free stalls for cows to eat their fill.

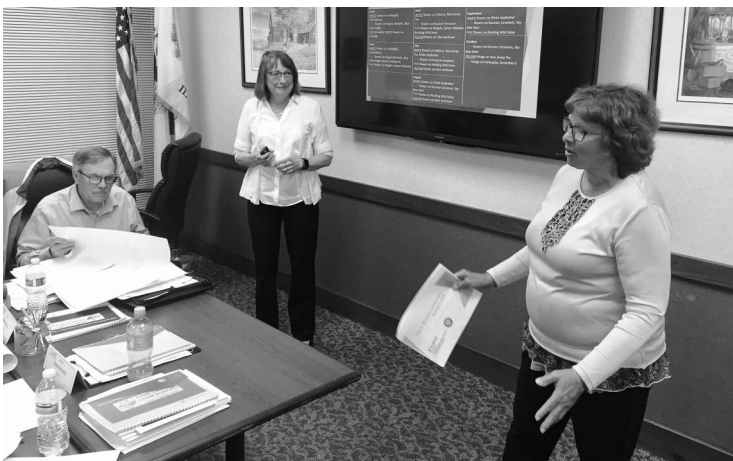
Bottom row, left to right:

Young Farmers gather in the dairy barn observation room in preparation for their tour on May 8.

The Young Farmers pose outside the facility built in 2018, Kane County's first robotic dairy.



Master Gardeners meet, present design plans



Thirty six area Master Gardeners participated in a winter 2019 class designing a landscape plan for the Kane County Farm Bureau, the first foray in landscaping for a commercial office building for some class participants.

Top photo: Donna Plonczynski and Julia Barickman presented 2 different landscape design concepts to the Farm Bureau Board of Directors at their May meeting.

Bottom: Class instructor Richard Hentschel (left) addresses questions about the designs from Farm Bureau Directors.

Thanks to our Donors...

The KCFB FOUNDATION offers its sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to our hunger relief, community service, education, and scholarship programs. Names shown are pledges received from April 14-May 16.



10,000 Gallon CHALLENGE

Donor
 Bill Keck
 Touch-A-Tractor attendees
 Donna Lehrer – Esther's Place Fibers
 John & Lauren Biddle
 Andy & Sarah Lenkaitis
 NIFB staff & volunteers

Beneficiary
 Northern Illinois Food Bank
 Northern Illinois Food Bank
 Hinckley Area Food Pantry
 Northern Illinois Food Bank
 Northern Illinois Food Bank
 Northern Illinois Food Bank





FUN at the ballpark!

Fundraisers for the KCFB Foundation

Tuesday, June 25
Kane County Cougars vs. Beloit Snappers
6:30pm first pitch

Sunday, August 18
Kane County Cougars vs. Clinton Lumberkings
1:00pm first pitch

- Tickets \$10 ea. (Reserved seating - *not* deck, *not* suite)
- Win fun prizes from KCFB
- Sunday only - Kids eat FREE at the ballpark
- KCFB 'cool-breeze hand fan' to all FB guests

Ticket sales benefit KCFB Foundation college scholarship and agricultural literacy programs!

RSVP: 630-584-8660 or info@kanecfb.com



Lenkaitis Family Dairy Farm Open House

Saturday,
June 29

Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 Ice Cream Social and Tours of Dairy Farm
 Ribbon Cutting at 11:30 AM

Event Information

- ▶ Enjoy delicious ice cream
 - ▶ A \$2 donation will support the 10,000 Gallon Milk Challenge of donating milk to local food pantries
- ▶ Take a tour of the dairy farm
- ▶ Watch cows milked by robotic milkers
- ▶ Learn the positives of raising dairy cows inside modern barns
- ▶ View dairy displays and information
- ▶ Bring the whole family - activities for all ages

Address

6N509 Corron Rd.
 St. Charles, IL

Find us on Facebook @lenkaitisholsteins

Event coordinated by:
 Illinois Livestock Development Group
 Illinois Milk Producers Association
 Kane County Farm Bureau